

2009 Big West Women's Basketball Tournament

Game 3 Quotes

Final - No. 3 Cal Poly def. No. 8 Cal State Northridge, 74-65

No. 3 Cal Poly

Head Coach Faith Mimnaugh

"I thought we had great balance in our scoring. We were struggling in the first half trying to figure out their (CSUN) ball-screens. But once we went into a different strategy, I felt like we shut down their 3-ball attack. But they (CSUN) continued to attack and that obviously caused us some problems. Defensively I thought we came together as a team; not our best effort but a good job. We handled their pressure really well which was a great concern for me before the game. I was pleased on how well our guards were able to attack. In the first half we were a bit shaky, but I call those tournament turnovers. But once we settled in, we were able to come up with a bit of a lead. But overall I was pleased with our team's performance."

How important was the win

"I hadn't thought we had played particularly well the last couple weeks, so today was a step up. I was pleased that we were able to come together and come up with a win. Cal State Northridge is on fire but today we stepped up and accepted the challenge. We're excited for the opportunity to compete in the semi-finals. Kristina (Santiago) was simply amazing. When she was hitting the outside shot, I thought 'who was going to defend her and I could sense that from Northridge'. When a player is in that kind of rhythm, you want to get her the ball as much as possible. UC Riverside is a great team. They pose so many problems for us."

Player - Kristina Santiago

"This was a big win for us. This was a team win because of the way we played. When we play well, it's awesome ... It's Cal Poly basketball."

No. 8 Cal State Northridge

Head Coach Staci Schulz

Opening Statement - That's a tough way to go, obviously. All seasons do come to an end. I'm happy for these seniors that our season came to an end in the conference tournament and in our second game. The team has (improved by) leaps and bounds and these three right here (Whitney Ligon, Tonicia Tademy and Ashley Blake) had a lot to do with that. I'm proud of them. I thank them. And I love them.

On any halftime adjustments the team tried to make

We knew we needed to take care of a couple of things. They run that backscreen that's kind of like the flex. And they take off on their cuts real quick when the ball is only at the point as the ball is getting reversed. And we needed to jump to the pass to get into a deny position to get into a help position quicker to not get picked. We were always about a half a step behind. And they were able to just catch the ball at the right angle even though we were right there it led to some fouls and that was a major one we needed to get over that simple back pick.

On her team's offensive rebounding

That's been something that we've struggled with in the past that we've worked on a lot in the past month to six weeks as far as rebounding especially preparing for Davis's game yesterday. Obviously they play in a zone and we wanted to make sure that we could rebound offensively. It is always good when what used to be a weakness can turn into a strength when you work on it a lot and it is good to see the dividends pay off.

Whitney Ligon

Was playing in the Big West Tournament everything you had hoped for?

I would say it was. I've never played in a stadium like that. So I was excited. I know "T" has gotten that experience and so has Ash. It was a good feeling. Everything I had hoped it would be.

Ashley Blake

On finishing her career at Cal State Northridge having advanced to the quarterfinals of the tournament

I feel like it was a big accomplishment considering the season that we had last year. It was definitely a goal to make it to the Big West Tournament (this year).